

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR

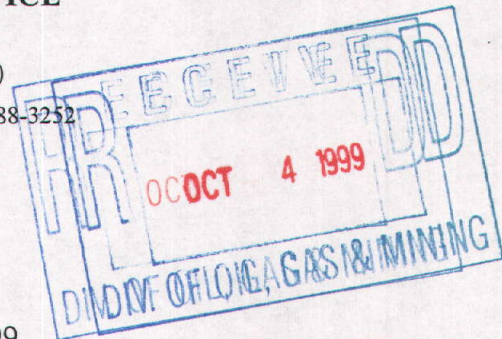
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

St. GEORGE FIELD OFFICE

345 E. Riverside Drive

St. George, Utah 84790

Phone (435)688-3200 · Fax (435)688-3252



In reply refer to:

3809

UTU-68572

(UT-045)

September 30, 1999

Mary Ann Wright
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Dear Ms. Wright:

We appreciate your letter of September 7, 1999 advising the BLM of your proposed post closure monitoring plan for the Goldstrike mine. After reviewing your proposal, we feel the following changes are necessary:

- 1) We concur the fence should be repaired using funds from the bond forfeiture account. This needs to be completed as soon as possible. Under the Plan of Operations authorized by the BLM, and under State law and County Ordinance, it appears fence maintenance is the mine operator's responsibility.

The St. George Field Office is unable to accept full maintenance responsibility for the 10 miles of fence surrounding the Goldstrike site. We are willing to provide materials to repair the fence to whomever does the work, and will try to schedule some work time for the project. We will also do spot monitoring of the fence, when we have employees in the area.

While the DI Ranch has been willing to remove cattle from the Goldstrike site when requested to do so, they have been unwilling to take on the responsibility of repairing or maintaining the fences, until they are authorized to graze the site.

During Larry Gore's discussions with Doug Jensen, the repairs were scheduled for early November. However, The DI allotment cattle will be trailed from their upper pastures to the lower pastures by mid-October. This trailing will occur immediately adjacent to the Goldstrike site, and there is a high potential that livestock will find their way into the Goldstrike site if the fence is not in good condition. Therefore, we would recommend

doing the repairs in early October; although we recognize that some damage to the fence might occur during the general rifle hunting season.

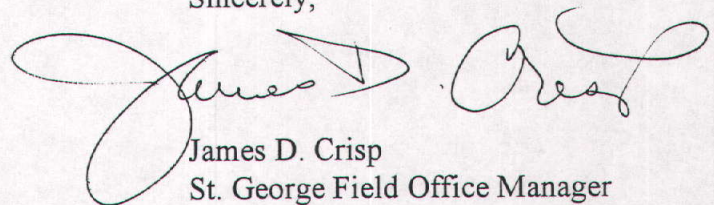
- 2) The fence must be maintained in good condition before the BLM can take trespass action. Impoundment of livestock by the BLM is a complex and time consuming procedure, and is only used as the last resort. After the fence is maintained, the BLM will take trespass actions as authorized in the regulations if significant numbers of cattle continue to use the site.

We did a utilization study of the site this fall, and determined the grazing that had occurred did not over-utilize the site. Therefore, light livestock use, which might occur from accidental trespass, should not significantly damage the reclamation efforts. Heavy use is obviously inappropriate.

- 3) We agree with the extension of Dan Slyter's contract to continue monitoring work at the site. We also concur with paying him from the Goldstrike bond forfeiture account.
- 4) An on-site inspection visit with the BLM, DOGM, DWQ, and DI and Twin Peaks Allotment permittees should be scheduled as soon as possible. This will allow everyone to see the site, discuss what the short-term needs and requirements of the site are, and when we propose to release the site. This would also be a good time for the agencies to review the bond balance, and see what additional expenses are expected. Larry Gore will be contacting you to arrange this site visit.

If you have any questions, please contact Larry Gore at 435-688-3205.

Sincerely,



James D. Crisp
St. George Field Office Manager

cc: Lowell Braxton, DOGM
Fred Pehrson, DWQ
Dennis Frederick, DWQ
Alan Rabinoff, BLM
Larry Gore, BLM
Doug Jensen, DOGM